

WHAT RESULT DO WE WANT?

All children in North Carolina can discover the joy of reading at an early age and are supported in the home, school, and community to be lifelong readers.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Children with low reading proficiency are more likely to drop out of high school, acquire low paying jobs that limit access to health care, and have increased risks for numerous adverse health outcomes.¹

HNC 2030 HEADLINE INDICATOR:
Percent of children reading at a proficient level or above based on third grade End-of-Grade exams in North Carolina

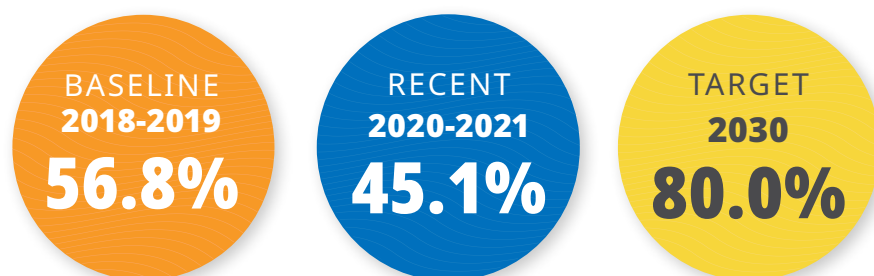
WHAT DOES THIS INDICATOR MEASURE?

The percentage of children grades three through five who have achieved a three or higher on END OF GRADE (EOG) testing for reading. A score of three is the minimum score required to be considered proficient.

Data are disaggregated by grade, race, gender, socioeconomic status, and disability.

The indicator uses NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) percentages already calculated in the available DPI data set. Numerators and denominators are also available, along with a masking variable for proficiencies below 5%, proficiencies 95% or higher, and small denominators (<10).

The data can be located on NC DPI's website: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards/school-report-card-resources-researchers>

BASELINE DATA FROM HNC 2030**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

- According to the NC DPI's Office of Early Learning, for the first time in at least 10 school years, most of the state's first, second, and third-grade students did not demonstrate reading proficiency.²
- Disaggregated proficiency data reveal that low income, racial bias and inequity, disability, homelessness, and child abuse/neglect continue to create barriers to opportunity for North Carolina's children.³
- Persistent racial disparities in NC's third grade reading scores have changed little over the years.⁴
- The 2020–21 school year and the 2018–19 school year differed significantly with respect to (1) time frame for test administrations, (2) number of days between instruction and the test administration, and (3) instructional delivery mode. For these reasons, the 2018–19 test data is provided as a reference; it is intended for context, not for accountability or evaluation.⁵

CURRENT DATA TRENDED OVER TIME

Figure 32. Percent of children who are proficient in reading at the end of third grade across populations in North Carolina

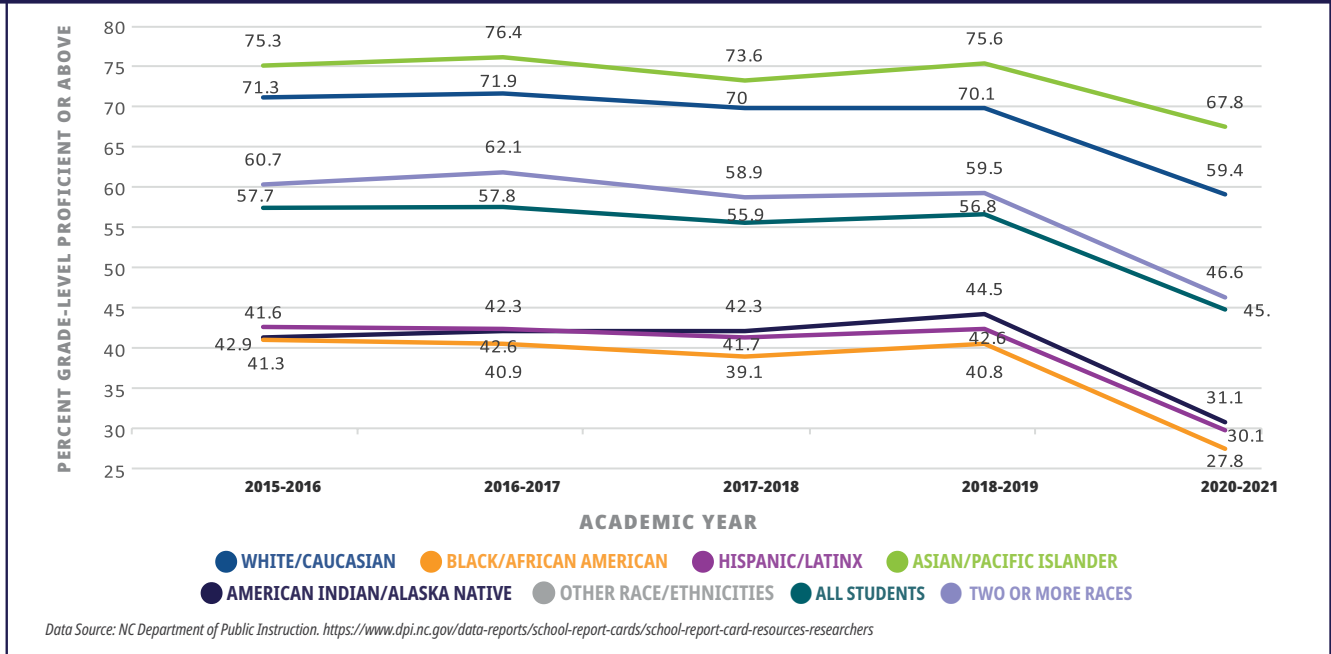
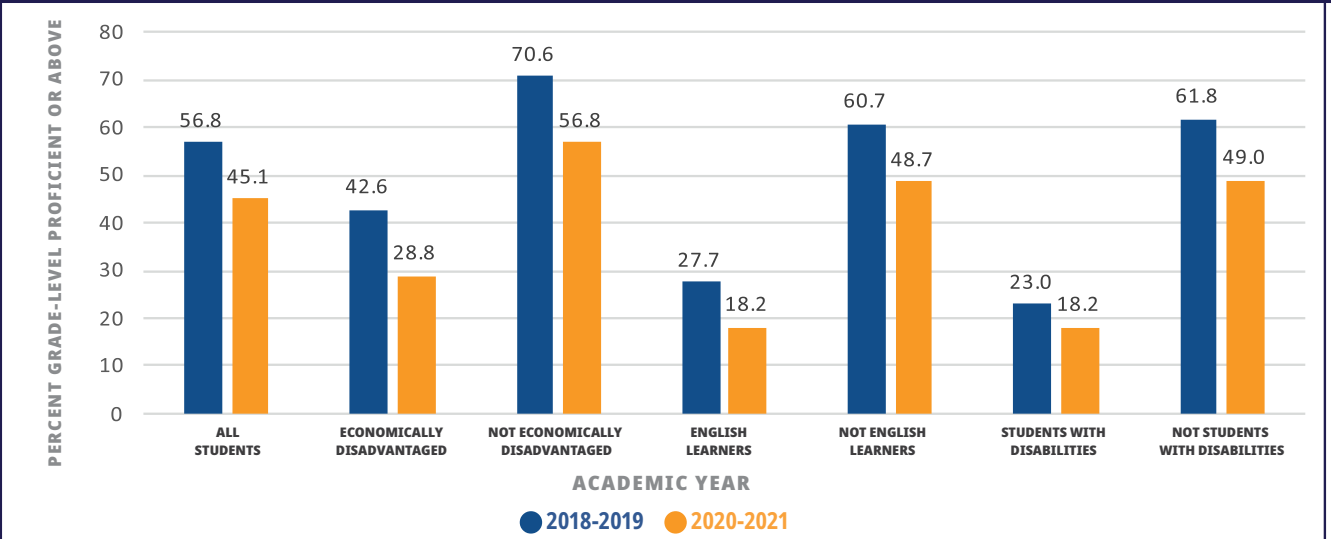


Figure 33. Percent of children who are proficient in reading at the end of third grade in North Carolina by select subgroups



THE STORY BEHIND THE CURVE

Dialogue from the 2022 NC SHIP Community Council Meeting and Symposia:

- Reading scores have been declining for over a decade
- Young children do not receive enough instruction in phonics to become fluent readers
- Fluency improves comprehension
- Reading is taught in a vacuum without giving students an opportunity to learn reading in science and history
- Home reading habits have deteriorated
- Cuts in spending for education generally mean cuts to personnel

"In 2019, results on national and international exams showed stagnant or declining American performance in reading and widening gaps between high and low performers. The causes are multifaceted, but many experts point to a shortage of educators trained in phonics and phonemic awareness — the foundational skills of linking the sounds of spoken English to the letters that appear on the page. The pandemic has compounded those issues."⁴

WHAT OTHER DATA DO WE NEED?

- How much does North Carolina spend per student each year?
- How does per student spending and teacher pay compare to other states?
- What factors influence teacher recruitment and retention?

WHAT COULD WORK TO TURN THE CURVE?

- Expand community and domestic violence prevention programs
- Expand statewide access to NC Pre-K, 4-, and 5-star early learning programs and other high-quality early childhood programs
- Fund statewide multisector community collaboration efforts to include children from low-income families and people of color
- Implement attendance interventions for chronically absent students
- Increase access to evidence-based parenting (including fatherhood programs), early intervention, and home visiting programs
- Increase funding and reach of Reach Out and Read programs
- Increase funding to public schools and early learning programs that serve those children with the highest barriers to success, including children from low-income families and people of color
- Invest in better data to readily identify households facing barriers to early childhood learning
- Reinforce the talent pipeline for early educators for children from birth through third grade by increasing compensation through dedicated funding, ensuring pay parity, and sustaining investments in training and professional development
- Strengthen Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils

RECOMMENDED READING/LISTENING

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. (2021, February). *2020 Comprehensive plan for reading achievement*. K-3 Literacy Division. <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nck-3fap/comprehensive-plan-for-reading-achievement>

NC PARTNERS WHO CAN HELP US

PARTNER/POTENTIAL PARTNER	WEBSITE LINK
Augustine Literacy Project (ALP)-Charlotte	https://alpcharlotte.org/
Book Harvest NC	https://bookharvest.org/
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	https://imaginationlibrary.com/category/imagination-library/united-states/
NC DHHS Early Childhood Action Plan	https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/early-childhood/early-childhood-action-plan
NC DHHS North Carolina Prekindergarten Program (NC Pre-K)	https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Home/DCDEE-Sections/North-Carolina-Pre-Kindergarten-NC-Pre-K
North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation - Pathways to Grade-Level Reading	https://buildthefoundation.org/initiative/pathways-to-grade-level-reading/
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction - Migrant Education Program	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/migrant-education
North Carolina Early Learning Network (NC-ELN)	https://nceln.fpg.unc.edu/north-carolina-early-learning-network-nc-eln
North Carolina DPI Office of Early Learning	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/office-early-learning-oel
Peletah Academic Center for Excellence (P.A.C.E.) Ministry	https://www.peletahministries.com/pace/
Reach Out and Read	https://www.rorcarolinas.org/about-us/
Richmond County Public Schools – Child Find Campaign	https://www.richmond-county.k12.va.us/Content2/childfind#:~:text=The%20Richmond%20County%20School%20System,an%20annual%20Child%20Find%20Campaign.
The NC Partnership for Children, Inc.- Smart Start	https://www.smartstart.org/



STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

HNC 2030 Indicators

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT FACTORS

Access to Exercise Opportunities.....	52-55
Limited Access to Healthy Foods.....	56-59
Severe Housing Problems	60-63